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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [TU](#) [DA](#)
SUBJECT: (C) NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR ASKS FOR CONTINUED USG
SUPPORT ON ROJ-TV

REF: 09 COPENHAGEN 446

Classified By: Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton; reason 1.4 (b, d)

11. (C) SUMMARY: Turkey's new Ambassador to Denmark Ahmet Dibek requested continued USG assistance in getting Denmark to engage on Turkish concerns about Roj-TV. He also spoke of Turkish - Danish cooperation to facilitate integration of Turkish immigrants to Denmark, and how these issues relate to the democratization process in Turkey. Brief biographical information on the Ambasssador is provided. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) Turkey's new Ambassador to Denmark, Ahmet Berki Dibek, paid an office call on Ambassador Fulton January 26. Stressing Turkey's friendship with the US throughout the meeting, he thanked the USG for its assistance in urging Denmark to work with Turkey regarding its claims that Roj-TV, which transmits from Denmark, is connected to the terrorist PKK and incites terrorism in Turkey (reftel). Ambassador Fulton replied that she was familiar with the issue and had discussed it with US and Danish officials, including the Prime Minister's Office last week. She said that as an attorney, she understands Denmark's position that it needs evidence to be able to evaluate whether Danish law has been violated, and that there is sufficient evidence to succeed in a Danish court, before proceeding to bring charges. She said the position of the USG is to encourage the Danish prosecuting attorneys to meet at the appropriate level with people in Turkey to gather and receive evidence, and to remind Denmark that this is an important issue to all three countries, but without trying to direct Danish action. Ambassador Dibek was appreciative of the US interest and asked for continued assistance. He said Turkey has provided all the evidence, including DVDs of the broadcasts, and that there is no more evidence to provide. He reported that Mr. Sezgin, General Director for Security within the Turkish MFA, and his deputy Mr. Aydin, were in town to meet with Danish authorities; they had met the previous day with MFA Permanent Secretary Claus Grube, and were meeting January 26 with the Danish Intelligence and Security Service PET. He hoped the Danes would now accelerate their process. He reported that Danish MFA had indicated PET needs to weigh in because the Danish courts would not give due weight to US or EU determinations that the PKK is a terrorist organization. Ambassador Fulton asked him to update her at the conclusion of the visit of Messrs. Sezgin and Aydin.

13. (C) Ambassador Dibek stated that the largest immigrant population in Denmark is Turkish (some 60,000 strong). He said his government works closely with the Danish authorities to help the Turkish immigrants integrate and become good Danes. On January 25, Ambassador Dibek had attended the opening of a new Turkish Islamic center. He said there are 26 imams in Denmark who were trained in Turkey's secular system, hand-picked and sponsored by the Turkish Government to live here in order to serve the spiritual needs of the Turkish immigrant community and assist with their

integration. Ambassador Dibek acknowledged that there are some problems with gangs in the immigrant community. He said it is a priority to help young Turkish immigrants stay out of gangs, and noted that a well-respected former Turkish police officer is working with Danish police to help them find ways to help the Turkish community avoid gangs. Ambassador Fulton expressed interest in meeting with some of the immigrants and visiting some of their centers to learn how they are working with youth in particular.

¶4. (C) Ambassador Dibek referenced the arrests of some 250 persons in Turkey the previous week for perceived ties to Al Qaeda. He acknowledged that while dozens would likely be indicted, others would likely be released. He commented that democratization is difficult while simultaneously fighting terrorism. He affirmed the desire for close cooperation on counterterrorism issues and said that Turkey had exchanged information with the Danes the previous day and had invited PET to Turkey.

¶5. (C) Ambassador Dibek said there are "three legs" that are needed for successful democratization: (1) the terrorist attacks have to be stopped; (2) there must be improved individual rights for all persons; (3) the money needs to be cut off that funds terrorist groups. He noted that international terrorist groups have interconnections and raise money abroad for attacks in home countries like Turkey. He opined that European countries do not seem to understand this interconnectedness, nor how to stop money laundering and other terrorist funding schemes. He assessed that the PKK fund-raising is not as strong as it used to be in Denmark: where the PKK used to extort money from about 600 persons, that number may now be down to 20 - 30. He referred to the

1,400 small businesses owned in Denmark by Turkish immigrants as the target for PKK extortion, but noted that the Danish authorities have been helpful in bringing this under control.

¶6. (C) He added that cooperation between Turkey and Iraq on PKK issues has improved since Masood Barzani has been President of Iraqi Kurdistan. He also noted that Turkey has survived the economic crisis, and its economy is growing.

¶7. (U) BIO: Prior to his current assignment, Ambassador Ahmet Berki Dibek (born in Denizli on May 8, 1951) served as Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs and Maritime and Aviation Affairs (since October 2007). Earlier assignments of note include Ambassador to Ireland (2003-2007) and postings to Washington (1987-91), Chicago (1982-85), and Havana (1980-82). He is married and a graduate of Ankara University in political science.

FULTON